PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/322

B/322 The Honourable Third Member for Montagne Blanche (29.04.08) and Grand River South East (Mr Gunness)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries:-

Whether, in regard to the Palmar Livestock Station, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to if it has ceased its operations and the land if occupied has been redistributed to other investors and if so, indicate

- (a) the name of the investors
- (b) the acreage of land allocated to each of them
- (c) the project in each case?

REPLY

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

My Ministry is currently proceeding with the closure of the Palmar Livestock Breeding Station. The State Land at Palmar Station is of an extent of 310.4 arpents comprising:

- (i) 10 arpents solely earmarked for agricultural activities. Six (6) arpents have already been leased to one Company solely for vegetables cultivation.
- (ii) 25 arpents, will be vested with the Ministry of Housing and Lands and have, in principle, been approved for lease to Ayurvedic Village and Resorts Ltd for the setting up of an Ayurveda Village;
- (iii) 25 arpents of natural wetland which may be considered for development subject to the approval of the National Ramsar Committee; and

- (iv) the remaining 250 arpents earmarked for industrial and tourism related projects.
- 2. My Ministry is as of now in the presence of some 13 applications for State Land at Palmar for various projects submitted by potential investors mainly in the Tourism Sector offering holiday packages with holistic wellness at the core. My Ministry expects to receive other similar applications. In this connection, Government has on 08 February 2008 decided that the Ministry of Housing and Lands would conduct a survey and prepare a Master Plan for the judicious utilization of the State Land.
- 3. The Ministry of Housing and Lands is presently working on the Master Plan of the Palmar Livestock Station.
- 4. The Master Plan will then be submitted to a Committee to be set up to examine the credibility of the promoters and the viability of their projects. Thereafter, the name of the investors will be known.